



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0724

SB 743 RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Senate Committee on
Culture, Arts and Historic Preservation
Public Hearing - January 28, 1988

By
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
Michael Graves, Anthropology
Bion Griffin, Anthropology

SB 743 would add four new sections to Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to address:

1. Reburial of remains from native Hawaiian burial sites and battle areas including provisions for the removal or redesignation of cemeteries; the issuance of permits for the examination of archaeological sites; and the requirement that the Department of Land and Natural Resources adopt rules establishing minimum standards for archaeological performance.
2. Amendment of the definition of historic property.
3. Addition to the comprehensive historic preservation program of a direction for the disposition of bones and other historic artifacts relating to Hawaiian burials.
4. Establishment of a division within the Department of Land and Natural Resources with responsibility to administer the comprehensive historic preservation programs. SB 743 provides that this division be headed by a State Historic Preservation Officer and sets forth certain professional qualifications for appointment to that position.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The Environmental Center, regularly coordinates reviews of Environmental Impact Assessments, Statements, and other environmentally pertinent documents. In the course of these reviews we frequently review archaeological impact studies and are notified of burial disturbances caused by construction activities. Each of the amendments proposed by SB 743 represents an attempt to improve the Historic Preservation Statutes and addresses problems or issues that have been repeatedly cited in our reviews and by many other members of the States archaeological community.

Our specific comments on the various amendments proposed have been incorporated into the testimony on SB 743-87 being presented by Dr. Michael Graves, University of Hawaiian Anthropology Department and President of the Society for Hawaii Archaeology.

We appreciate your consideration of our suggestions and look forward to significant and much needed improvements to Historic Preservation Statutes.

A Unit of Water Resources Research Center

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER